



## **The Florida House of Representatives**

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### **Florida House Announces “Build Your Own Budget” Exercise Is Now Available to the Public**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – Representative Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring), chair of the House Appropriations Committee, today announced that the budget writing exercise that Florida lawmakers recently completed, is now available to the public. The budget writing exercise gives those using the program the opportunity to balance the budget and decide where they deem cuts to Florida’s budget should be made.

“The appropriations process is a challenging one,” said Representative Grimsley. “Members of the Florida House completed this budget writing exercise so that we can better prioritize state funded programs, services and activities. And now, we’re asking Floridians to give us their input as well, by going online and downloading the program and sharing the results of the budget they create with lawmakers.”

“With the state experiencing an estimated \$4.6 billion budget shortfall, it’s paramount that all Floridians have an opportunity to voice where they believe cuts to the budget should be made and which state funded activities we simply cannot do without,” concluded Representative Grimsley.

For the exercise, the budget is broken down into portions corresponding to each Appropriations Subcommittee and members of the House were asked to participate in balancing the budget of the subcommittee on which they serve. The House subcommittees are as follows:

- Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
- Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee
- Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee
- Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee
- Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

- PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee
- Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee

The exercise is presented in the form of an Excel spreadsheet, with a column where an individual may enter in the proposed percentage of each item listed. The program will then adjust the dollar amount of funding as well as indicate if the individual has chosen to make cuts to a revenue generating source, or to a program that gets matching federal funds. The exercise is now available on the [Florida House of Representatives “Build Your Own Budget” webpage](#).

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